

- i) the total concentration in the reaction mixture of 6-APA and ampicillin combined is, substantially throughout the reaction, greater than 250 mM;
- ii) the concentration of dissolved 6-APA is lower than 300 mM throughout the reaction; and
- iii) the molar ratio of the total quantity of phenylglycine derivative to the total quantity of 6-APA is less than 2.5.

2. (Twice Amended) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the total concentration of the 6-APA and ampicillin present in the reaction mixture is, substantially throughout the reaction, greater than 300 mM.

3. (Twice Amended) Process according to any one of Claims 1 or 2, wherein the concentration of dissolved 6-APA is kept lower than 250 mM throughout the reaction.

4. (Three times amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the total quantity of phenylglycine derivative to the total quantity of 6-APA is less than 2.0.

7. (Twice Amended) Process according to Claim 6, wherein the phenylglycine derivative is metered in the form of a solution of D-phenylglycine amide, 1.2 H₂SO₄ in water

Please add the following claim:

11. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the total concentration in the reaction mixture of 6-APA and ampicillin combined is greater than 250 ml throughout the reaction.

12. (New) A batch process for preparation of ampicillin comprising:
acylating 6-aminopenicillanic acid (6-APA) with a phenylglycine derivative in the presence of an enzyme to form a reaction mixture.

wherein the total concentration in the reaction mixture of 6-APA and ampicillin combined is, substantially throughout the reaction, greater than 250 mM and the molar ratio of the total quantity of phenylglycine derivative to the total quantity of 6-APA is less than 2.5.

13. (New) Process according to claim 12, wherein the entire amount of 6-APA is present in the reaction mixture at the beginning of the process.